

STREET SMART

November 3, 2004

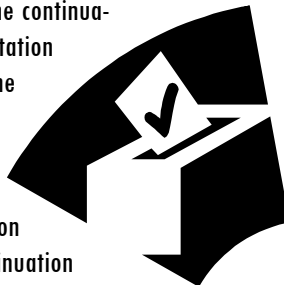
Governments
SANBAG
Working Together

Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

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■ Measure I renewal wins by landslide ... 79.44%

Voters gave a resounding "Yes" November 2 to the continuation of Measure I, the half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements in San Bernardino County. With all of the precincts reporting, the vote tallied 304,573 (79.44%) in favor of the Measure I extension and 78,841 (20.56%) against.



"This is terrific news for our county's transportation system," said Executive Director Norm King. "The continuation of Measure I will give us the tools we need to help relieve traffic, repair roads and increase our transportation options countywide."

During the Board meeting, King and SANBAG Vice President Kelly Chastain thanked members of the Board of Directors, staff and representatives of the business community for their work to educate the public about Measure I and its implications for San Bernardino County.

What makes the vote remarkable, King noted, is that Measure I originally passed in 1989 with a 59.8% vote, and the continuation passed by nearly 20 additional percentage points.

SANBAG will be reviewing strategies to consider advancing projects identified in the continued measure.

The new version of the measure will take effect April 1, 2010, the day after the current version expires.

■ Officials celebrate start of Route 210 in San Bernardino

With construction of State Route 210 starting soon in San Bernardino, local officials marked the occasion with a ground-breaking ceremony October 27.

Wind and rain forced the event indoors, but the ceremony continued with performances by the San Bernardino Police & Fire Color Guard and the Arroyo Valley High School Jazz Hawks Band, and presentations by Congressman Joe Baca, Assemblyman John Longville, Supervisors Paul Biane and Clifford Young, Mayor Judith Valles and Caltrans District 8 Director Anne Mayer.

Officials then donned vests and used gold painted shovels to simulate the breaking of ground for the freeway project in the City of San Bernardino. Work is expected to begin before the end of this year and be complete by 2007. Work also will continue on sections of the freeway in Rialto.



■ Call boxes to go digital

Better call box reception is on the way, thanks to an upcoming change to digital service. SANBAG awarded two contracts, one to AT&T Wireless for the new digital cellular service, and one to Comarco Wireless Technology for the upgrade and maintenance of the 1,615 call boxes countywide.



Since 1990, SANBAG has provided call box service. Motorists use the bright yellow boxes on the shoulders of freeways and highways to report accidents or to summon help. The call boxes currently connect to an answering center using analog cellular service, a technology that is being phased out by providers.

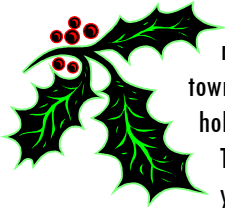
The change to digital service will allow better reception along the call box network and an eventual reduction in cost, from \$7.50 per month per call box to \$6.50 per month.

The answering center responds to about 44,000 calls per year from county motorists. While the call volume has been declining due to personal cell phones, a survey of residents showed strong support for call boxes. In the 2001 Inland Empire Annual Survey, 86.3% of residents said they believed maintaining call boxes to be a high priority for the county.

Down the road ...

- Nov. 10: Administrative Committee, 9 a.m.
- Nov. 17: Plans & Programs Committee, 12 noon
- Nov. 18: Major Projects Committee, 9 a.m.
- Nov. 19: Mountain-Desert Committee, 9 a.m.

Holiday Metrolink trains help celebrate the season Thanksgiving, Santa's Toy Express, Rose Parade service coming soon



You better watch out, you better not cry, you better not pout, I'm telling you why ... Metrolink is coming to town. Metrolink and SANBAG are serving up a triple helping of holiday goodness, with special Thanksgiving trains, Santa's Toy Express trains and Rose Parade trains, no matter if you're naughty or nice.

This month's issue of *Measuring Success* shines Rudolph's red nose on these special trains. Metrolink service is funded in part by Measure I, the half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements in San Bernardino County.

Thanksgiving Service

On both Thanksgiving Day and the next day (November 25-26), Metrolink is slicing its fares 25% and providing a great "Thanksgiving Family Treat," in which three children (ages 18 and under) can ride free with each paying adult. Riders also will receive free transfers to local bus, shuttle and rail lines.

Because Thanksgiving is one of the most heavily traveled days of the year, riding the train is an excellent alternative to sitting in freeway traffic.

Six trains will operate to and from Los Angeles on the San Bernardino Line, as early as 8 a.m. and as late as 10:30 p.m. Six trains also will operate between downtown Riverside and Irvine on the Inland Empire-Orange County Line, starting at 9 a.m. and extending through 8:45 p.m.

This is the second year that SANBAG and Metrolink have teamed up to offer this service. Last year, only four trains operated from each station, and the trains started later in the day. The service expansion should make it easier for even more people to ride "over the river and through the woods."

Another nice treat is that riders who are too sleepy from their turkey feast can stay overnight at grandma's house and take the train home on Friday at no extra cost. Return trips will be honored on Friday for tickets purchased on Thanksgiving.

No advance purchase is necessary. Tickets are available at each station, payable by cash, credit card or debit card at easy-to-use kiosks.

For Metrolink schedules, fares and station locations, visit www.metrolinktrains.com or call 1-800-371-LINK (5465).



Santa's Toy Express

Ho, ho, ho! Santa Claus is indeed coming to town, but he's left his slow, rickety sleigh at home. Stop by one of the San Bernardino County Metrolink stations to see the big guy riding in style -- one the Holiday Toy Express Train. Decorated with more than 50,000 lights and carrying Santa and some of his favorite sing-along friends, the Holiday Toy Express will get the whole family into the seasonal spirit.

All shows are free, but Metrolink and local firefighters request that visitors bring an unwrapped toy to donate to the Spark of Love Toy Drive. The Holiday Toy Express will make the following stops:

- November 27, East Ontario Station, 6:10 p.m.
- November 28, Montclair Station, 8 p.m.
- December 4, Rancho Cucamonga Station, 5:05 p.m.
- December 4, Fontana Station, 5:45 p.m.
- December 4, San Bernardino Station, 6:30 p.m.
- December 4, Rialto Station, 7:15 p.m.
- December 4, Upland Station, 8:15 p.m.

Rose Parade Service

Make a resolution to see this year's Tournament of Roses Parade, up close and personal. It's hard to stop and smell the roses when stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic all the way to the parade, so hop on Metrolink for an easy ride.

Not only are fares cut 25%, but free transfers will be provided from the Los Angeles Union Station to the Metro Gold Line to Pasadena.

Trains start as early as 4:30 a.m. from the downtown Riverside station and as early as 5 a.m. from the San Bernardino station. Trains return to Riverside as late as 9 p.m. Four trains will be operating throughout the day to accommodate early birds as well as those who need their beauty sleep.

For schedules, fares and station locations, visit metrolinktrains.com or 1-800-371-LINK.

